

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 325

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 4880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PE

SUBJECT: ELECTION PROSPECTS

1. SUMMARY: REMIGIO MORALES BERMUDEZ, SON AND CONFIDANT OF THE PRESIDENT, SAYS THAT THE GOP IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE JUNE 18 ELECTIONS AND THAT APRA, AFTER SOME HESITATION LAST WEEK, IS NOW ALSO COMMITTED. ONE REMAINING ACTION THE GOP WILL SOON TAKE TO ASSURE A SUCCESSFUL ELECTION IS RELAXATION OF RESTRAINTS ON POLITICAL MEETINGS AND PUBLICATIONS. HE FEELS RECENT FIRM GOP ACTION IN ARRESTING PSR LEADERS WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT CONTINUED DISTURBANCES. BETWEEN JUNE 18 AND THE OPENING OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY JULY 28 IMPORTANT NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE MAJOR PARTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. REMIGIO MORALES BERMUDEZ (RMB), SON OF THE PRESIDENT WHO PLAYS AN ACTIVE ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN HIS FATHER AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES, TOLD DCM JUNE 2 THAT THE PRESIDENT IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE JUNE 18 CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AND WAS NOW CONFIDENT THEY WOULD TAKE PLACE. DURING THE PAST WEEK THERE WERE MISGIVINGS WITHIN APRA, PURPORTEDLY PRIMARILY INSPIRED BY VILLANUEVA, RELATED TO THE PREFERENCIAL VOTE AND THE EMERGENCY MEASURES, BUT HAYA AND OTHER PARTY LEADERS IS SIMILARLY COMMITTED. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE CURRENT

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EMERGENCY MEASURES THAT RESTRICT CAMPAIGNING, RMB ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBLE STUMBLING BLOCK FOR THE ELECTION, BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE RELAXED SO AS TO PERMIT PUBLIC MEETINGS FULL PRESS COVERAGE, AND PUBLICATION OF MOST INDEPENDENT POLITICAL MAGAZINES (THE MARXIST MAGAZINE MARKA AND RIGHT WING EL TIEMPO WOULD REMAIN SHUT DOWN IN VIEW OF THEIR ALLEGED ROLE IN INCITING THE RECENT DISTURBANCES).

HOWEVER, FREE TV TIME FOR CANDIDATES WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE RESUMED IN VIEW OF OPPOSITION WITHIN THE MILITARY. RMB WAS VAGUE AS TO WHEN DURING THE FINAL TWO WEEKS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAGIN THE RESTRICTIONS WOULD BE LIFTED. THE DCM STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE GOP POSITION TO GO AHEAD WITH ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO CONCERN EXPRESSED BY THE DCM OVER POLITICAL DETAINEES AND DEPORTEES, RMB STATED THAT ALTHOUGH REGRETTABLE THE FIRM REACTION OF THE GOP WAS NECESSARY TO HEAD OFF FURTHER DISTURBANCES. THE PSR IN PARTICULAR ONLY RESPONDS TO A SHOW OF FORCE AND WAS PLANNING A SECOND GENERAL STRIKE UNTIL SOME OF ITS LEADERS WERE ARRESTED AND DEPORTED; THEN IT BACKED DOWN. A FIRM STAND BY THE GOP ALSO WAS CRUCIAL IN RESOLVING THE DISTURBANCES IN AREQUIPA. RMB HOPED THAT THE WORST WAS NOW OVER AND THAT DETAINEES COULD GRADUALLY BE RELEASED.

4. RMB EMPHASIZED THAT THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE JUNE 18 ELECTION AND THE JULY 28 OPENING OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPING A COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PARINCIPAL PARTIES AND THE GOP FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. HE NOTED THAT THE PPC AS WELL AS APRA WERE NOW AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SUCH POST ELECTION COOPERATION.

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5. COMMENT: RMB IS GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED AND ACCURATE IN HIS INFORMATION, ALTHOUGH HE TENDS TO TAKE AN OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF THE FUTURE. THE TIMING ON RELAXATION OF RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL MEETINGS AND MAGAZINES IS IN OUR VIEW IMPORTANT AND IF DELAYED INTO THE FINAL WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN COULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE PARTIES IN ACCEPTING THE VALIDITY OF THE ELECTION RESULTS.

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